

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 4 and ADD claims 12-22 in accordance with the following:

1. (CANCELLED)
2. (CANCELLED)
3. (CANCELLED)
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A surface light source device of side light type,

comprising:

a light guide plate having an incidence end surface, an exiting surface and an incline surface inclined so that the light guide plate gradually decreases away from the incidence end surface in thickness;

a reflecting sheet disposed along the inclined surface of the light guide plate;

a primary light source supplying illumination light to said light guide plate from said incidence end surface, the supplied light being deflected in the light guide plate and emitted from the exiting surface of the light guide plate; and

a light control element disposed along the exiting surface of said light guide plate, the light control element extending in a plane, having a light entrance side with a prismatic surface adjacent to said light guide plate, and having a light emitting side, spaced from the light entrance side,

said prismatic surface having repeated projections, each having first and second slopes inclined with respect to the plane of said light control element, said first slopes being light source side slopes directed to said incidence end face of the light guide plate and said second slopes being exiting-surface slopes directed oppositely to said incidence end face of the light guide plate,

wherein only the second slopes define a light diffusible surface to generate diffused light when the light emanating from the light guide plate is incident to said second slope after traveling into said light control element, such that a surface of the light emitting side is illuminated in a substantially uniform manner, reducing light effects of the reflecting sheet ~~and preventing the light emanating from the light guide plate from being scattered before traveling into said light control element.~~

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A surface light source device of side light type according to claim 4, wherein said projections extend in one common direction and are repeatedly arranged in a direction perpendicularly to said one common direction, each of said projections having a substantially triangular cross section.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A surface light source device of side light type according to claim 4, wherein said light diffusible surface is a rough surface.

7-8. (CANCELLED)

9. (ORIGINAL) A surface light source device of side light type according to claim 5, wherein said light diffusible surface is a rough surface.

10. (CANCELLED)

11. (CANCELLED)

12. (NEW) A light control element, extending in a plane and spaced from a reflecting sheet, to direct light emitted from a light source, comprising:

a light entrance side to receive the light emitted from the light source and exiting from a light guide plate, that includes a prismatic surface having repeated projections with slopes inclined with respect to the plane of said light control element; and

a light emitting side, spaced from the light entrance side, to emit diffused light passing through said light control element from the light entrance side toward the light emitting side,

wherein only part of said repeated projections define a light diffusible surface to generate the diffused light while the light emitted from the light source is radiating within the light control element toward the light emitting side such that a surface of the light emitting side is illuminated in a substantially uniform manner, reducing light effects of the reflecting sheet.

13. (NEW) A light control element according to claim 12, wherein said repeated projections extend in one common direction and are repeatedly arranged in a direction perpendicular to said one common direction, each of said repeated projections having a substantially triangular cross section.

14. (NEW) A light control element according to claim 12, wherein said light diffusible surface is a rough surface.

15. (NEW) A surface light source device of side light type, comprising:
a light guide plate having an incidence end surface, an exiting surface and an incline surface gradually decreasing away from the incidence end surface;
a reflecting sheet disposed along the inclined surface of the light guide plate;
a primary light source supplying illumination light to said light guide plate from said incidence end surface, the supplied light being deflected in the light guide plate and emitted from the exiting surface of the light guide plate; and
a light control element disposed along the exiting surface of said light guide plate, the light control element extending in a plane, having a light entrance side with a prismatic surface adjacent to said light guide plate, and having a light emitting side, spaced from the light entrance side, said prismatic surface having repeated projections with slopes inclined with respect to the plane of said light control element, at least part of said slopes defining a light diffusible surface to generate diffused light while the light emanating from the light guide plate is radiating within the light control element from the light entrance side towards the light emitting side, such that a surface of the light emitting side is illuminated in a substantially uniform manner, reducing light effects of the reflecting sheet.

16. (NEW) A surface light source device of side light type according to claim 15, wherein said projections extend in one common direction and are repeatedly arranged in a direction perpendicularly to said one common direction, each of said projections having a substantially triangular cross section.

17. (NEW) A surface light source device of side light type according to claim 15, wherein said light diffusible surface is a rough surface.

18. (NEW) A surface light source device of side light type, comprising:
a light guide plate having an inclined side and an exiting surface to emit light;
a reflecting sheet, disposed along the inclined side of the light guide plate, to reflect light back to the light guide plate; and

a light control element that includes a light entrance side, only portions of which include an inner light diffusible surface that receives the light emitted from the exiting surface of the light guide plate through the light entrance side, said light control element further including a light emitting side spaced from the light entrance side away from the light guide plate, wherein the diffusible surface generates diffused light while the light emitted from the exiting surface of the light guide plate is radiating within the light control element toward the light emitting side such that a surface of the light emitting side is illuminated in a substantially uniform manner, reducing light effects of the reflecting sheet.

19. (NEW) A light control element according to claim 13, wherein said light diffusible surface is a rough surface.

20. (NEW) A surface light source device of side light type according to claim 16, wherein said light diffusible surface is a rough surface.

21. (NEW) A surface light source device of side light type, comprising:
a light guide plate having an incidence end surface, an exiting surface and an incline surface gradually decreasing away from the incidence end surface;
a reflecting sheet disposed along the inclined surface of the light guide plate;
a primary light source supplying illumination light to said light guide plate from said incidence end surface, the supplied light being deflected in the light guide plate and emitted from the exiting surface of the light guide plate; and

a light control element disposed along the exiting surface of said light guide plate, the light control element extending in a plane, having a light entrance side with a prismatic surface adjacent to said light guide plate, and having a light emitting side, spaced from the light entrance side, said prismatic surface having repeated projections with slopes inclined with respect to the plane of said light control element, with only part of said repeated projections defining a light diffusible surface to generate diffused light while the light emanating from the light guide plate is radiating within the light control element from the light entrance side towards the light emitting side, such that the surface of the light emitting side is illuminated in a substantially uniform manner, reducing light effects of the reflecting sheet.

22. (NEW) A surface light source device of side light type according to claim 21, wherein said light diffusible surface is a rough surface.